

Listing of Claims:

We claim:

1. (Currently Amended) A package for a sterile reamer, comprising:
 - A. a foldable package comprising :
 - a base panel having first and second opposed major sides and first and second opposed minor sides;
 - a front side panel foldably connected to the base panel along the first major side, said front side panel having opposed ends, and said front side panel having a front side end panel foldably attached to each end;
 - a pair of end panels connected to the minor sides of the base panel;
 - a tab panel foldably connected to each end panel, each tab panel having a tab member;
 - a tab pocket in the base panel adjacent to each end panel;
 - a top panel having first and second opposed major sides and opposed minor sides;
 - a rear side panel foldably connected along the second major side to the base panel, and foldably connected to the first major side of the top panel, said rear side panel having opposed ends and a rear end panel foldably attached to each end;
 - a pair of top end panels foldably connected to the minor sides of the top panel; and,
 - a closure panel foldably connected to the second major side of the top panel;

B. an insert comprising a foam member having a central opening for receiving a surgical instrument, and a pair of opposed engagement members projecting into the opening for engaging a section of a surgical instrument, wherein at least one of the opposed engagement members contains an opening therein; and,

C. a sterile pouch having a top film sealed to a bottom film,

wherein the sterile pouch contains a surgical instrument and wherein such instrument comprises a surgical instrument.

2. (Cancelled) The instrument of claim 1, wherein the sterile pouch contains a surgical instrument.

3. (Cancelled) The instrument of claim 2, wherein the instrument is a surgical reamer.

4. (Cancelled) The instrument of claim 1, wherein at least one of the opposed engagement members contains an opening therein.

5. (Original) The package of claim 1 wherein the insert comprises polyethylene foam.

6. (Original) A method of packaging a sterile surgical instrument, comprising:

I. providing a package, comprising:

A. a foldable package comprising :

a base panel having first and second opposed major sides and first and second opposed minor sides;

a front side panel foldably connected to the base panel along the first major side, said front side panel having opposed ends, and said front side panel having a front side end panel foldably attached to each end;

a pair of end panels connected to the minor sides of the base panel;

a tab panel foldably connected to each end panel, each tab panel having a tab member;
a tab pocket in the base panel adjacent to each end panel;
a top panel having first and second opposed major sides and opposed minor sides;
a rear side panel foldably connected along the second major side to the base panel, and foldably connected to the first major side of the top panel, said rear side panel having opposed ends and a rear end panel foldably attached to each end;
a pair of top end panels foldably connected to the minor sides of the top panel; and,
a closure panel foldably connected to the second major side of the top panel;

B. an insert comprising a foam member having a central opening for receiving a surgical instrument, and a pair of opposed engagement members projecting into the opening for engaging a section of a surgical instrument; and,

C. a sterile pouch having a top film sealed to a bottom film;

II. placing a surgical instrument in the sterile pouch prior to sealing, and sterilizing the instrument in the pouch; and,

III. placing the insert into the foldable package, and placing the pouch containing the instrument into the opening in the insert such that the instrument and pouch are engaged by the engagement members.

7. (Original) The instrument of claim 6, wherein the instrument is a surgical reamer.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the engagement members have a compression opening.